

Meeting Date: November 6

Agenda Item No. 8

Agenda Item: Hunter Orange Policy

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Sharon W. Kiefer

Background:

The Commission discussed a draft hunter orange policy at the July, 2008 meeting. Staff recommended consideration of a hunter orange policy in response to inquiry from legislators and constituents about the use of hunter orange in Department programs and rules and the Idaho legislative background of the use of hunter orange.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

The Commission has statutory authority to set the conditions of public use of Department lands in 36-104(b) and 36-104(7). Based on these authorities, the Commission previously adopted a rule in 13.01.09.300 for wearing hunter orange when hunting during pheasant season on WMAs where pheasants are stocked. This rule has been legislatively approved. Refinement of the rule requiring visible hunter orange, at least 36 square inches in size, above the waist was implemented for the 2008 season and the refined rule will be reviewed by the 2009 Legislature.

As a matter of policy, the Commission has supported the Department ensuring use of hunter orange for Department-sponsored activities such as mentored youth hunts, teaching safety messages that incorporate hunter orange in hunter education, providing general information to the public about the safety benefits of hunter orange, and the encouragement of voluntary use of hunter orange in the appropriate conditions.

Public Involvement Process:

The draft policy was posted on the IDFG website after the Commission meeting in July for public review and feedback. Limited discussion has occurred with interested legislators and members of the public. Staff will review public input for Commission consideration including any additional comment that may be forthcoming during the November public meeting.

Staff Recommendation:

Develop policy statements about hunter orange that may be used in legislative and public policy discussions. A draft "Statements of Policy Regarding Hunter Orange" is attached for Commission consideration.

Justification:

A request for a Commission policy about hunter orange has been made by a group of interested legislators and constituents to clarify Department policy.